



Grazing Grants Awarded for Technical Assistance & Education

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MADISON – The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) has announced the recipients of Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative grants. The grants are made possible through a partnership between DATCP and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

“Seventeen projects have been awarded Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative grants,” said DATCP Secretary Ben Brancel. “These recipients will work directly with producers providing education, research and technical assistance so farmers can better use grazing as a management practice.”

Farmers; county, state, and federal agriculture and natural resource agencies; colleges and universities; nonprofit organizations; and grazing networks were encouraged to apply. A competitive process was used to select technical assistance and education projects that best meet farmer needs.

“Managed grazing is a means of maximizing pasture forage quality and yield with a focus on the reduction of production costs to improve profitability,” said Laura Paine, DATCP Grazing Specialist and manager of the grant program. “Our recent research suggests that 22% of all dairy farms and 42% of beef farms in Wisconsin used management intensive grazing. Managed grazing is size neutral and flexible, and it involves rotating the herd between small paddocks of pasture often.”

About \$531,000 will be distributed to support grazing initiatives. Recipients include:

- Glacierland Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. – Broaden the outreach for grazing education and success.
- Glacierland Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. – Grazing planner for Northern Glacierland area and beyond.
- Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. – Management intensive grazing establishment in nine central Wisconsin counties.
- GrassWorks, Inc. – GrassWorks statewide education project.
- Marathon County Conservation, Planning and Zoning Department – Measure, monitor and managed through the start-up project.
- Pri Ru Ta Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. – 2011 Lake Superior grazing initiative education & demonstration project.
- Pri Ru Ta Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. – 2011 Lake Superior grazing initiative technical assistance project.
- Pri Ru Ta Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. – 2011 North Central Graziers education & demonstration project.
- River Country Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. – Coulee Grazier Network managed intensive grazing education program.
- River Country Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. – St. Croix Valley Grazier’s educational assistance program.
- River Country Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. – Managed grazing education in the Chippewa Valley.
- River Country Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. – Managed grazing technical assistance in the Chippewa River Valley.
- Southwest Badger Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. – Offer a southwest Wisconsin grazing education program.

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- Southwest Badger Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. – Southwest Wisconsin grazing technical assistance program.
- Town and Country Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. – Southeast Wisconsin grazing education project.
- Town and Country Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. – Southeast Wisconsin grazing technical assistance program.
- University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents and University of Wisconsin-Extension Office of Extramural Support – Providing research-based educational grazing resources to Wisconsin's agricultural communities.

For more information about the grant program contact Paine at 608-224-5120 or laura.paine@wi.gov, or visit the DATCP website: <http://datcp.wi.gov/Farms/Grazing/>.

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